

James A. McDevitt was appointed United States Attorney by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate on November 30, 2001. According to Jim, being the chief federal law enforcement officer has been the “capstone of my law career, and the most challenging and rewarding job I’ve had in the legal field.”

After earning his MBA in business and his law degree from Gonzaga University in 1975, Jim worked for five years as an assistant Washington State attorney general, when former Senator Slade Gorton served as our state AG. After leaving this position, Jim entered private practice as a partner in the law firm of Reed and Giesa, PS, and then, Preston Gates Ellis, LLS (now K & L Gates, LLP), until his appointment with the Justice Department.

According to Jim, he feels privileged to have served under two presidents and four U.S. Attorneys General. He is proud that no one in the U.S. Justice Department ever tried to apply political pressure regarding his supervision of the office or the handling of a particular case.

In addition to his legal career, Jim served for 35 years in the military, with five years in the United States Air Force followed by 30 years in the Washington Air National Guard, where he retired as a brigadier general. Because of his extensive military service, which included time as a commander in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War, and his position as U.S. Attorney, Jim has traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Romania to serve as an advisor to officials in both countries. He has also worked extensively with Canadian officials on border issues.

Since 1965, Jim has been married to his wife, Gretchen, a retired school teacher and counselor. They are enthusiastic parents of two sons, Darby and Brendan. When Jim eventually semi-retires, in addition to teaching, he will devote more time to flying into the back country, enjoying nature and fly fishing on his favorite lakes and streams.

Madam Speaker, James A. McDevitt represents the patriotism and courage of America’s men and women in uniform plus the tireless commitment to justice that marks the best leaders of America’s U.S. Attorney and our entire justice system. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim on eight excellent years as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington plus 35 brave years as a member of the U.S. military. We wish him continued success and productivity in his well-earned retirement.

## RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR CAREER ALTERNATIVES

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2010*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to the Center for Career Alternatives (CCA), a presidential-award-winning non-profit agency in the Seventh Congressional District. CCA will celebrate three decades of success at its 30th Annual Community Awards and Appreciation Banquet on February 24, 2010. For thirty years, CCA has made good on its mission “to provide the highest quality education, employment, training and career development services leading to individual self-sufficiency and self-worth for a culturally diverse population of disadvantaged youth and adults.”

The success of CCA is due in large part to the vision and leadership of its founder and current executive director, Alan Sugiyama. Mr. Sugiyama, a third generation Japanese-American, was born and raised in Seattle, and is a graduate of Garfield High School. In 1979, he observed that many immigrants and people of color were being left out of important career opportunities and living wage jobs because of a lack of education, training, and connections. He also saw prospective employers interested in hiring a diverse workforce frustrated that they had to go to a variety of isolated agencies to recruit.

Mr. Sugiyama responded by creating a multiethnic organization, reflecting Seattle’s diverse communities, dedicated to helping individuals with employment services. From CCA’s humble beginnings in 1979 as a career counseling program with two staff, the Center for Career Alternatives now has 43 staff members, who speak more than 20 different languages, and offers 24 programs across five offices.

Madam Speaker, annually, CCA serves approximately 1,600 low-income youth and young adults who have multiple barriers to education and employment. And since 1979, CCA has provided unparalleled comprehensive education, employment and training services to more than 28,000 individuals in King and Snohomish counties at no cost to the individual clients. In difficult economic times, like the ones we face today, the importance of the Center for Career Alternatives’ critical services and programs can not be overstated. I extend my thanks and best wishes to CCA’s Executive Director Al Sugiyama, the board of direc-

tors, staff, and clients on 30 years of changing lives and creating hope.

## TRIBUTE TO THE RESOURCE CONNECTION AND THE PEOPLE OF CALAVERAS COUNTY

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2010*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the great work The Resource Connection has done on behalf of the community of Calaveras County.

Having toured The Resource Connection Food Bank and witnessed the good work of Jeannie Hayward and her staff, it does not surprise me to learn that the generosity of the people of Calaveras County was recognized in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “2009 Rural Development Progress Report.”

The residents of Calaveras County and the staff at The Resource Connection need to be congratulated as a community that consistently grows to meet and feed an ever-increasing need—no matter what. There was a time when the big hearts of this community were larger than the facility that housed it and the food bank literally had to turn away food or leave it outside at night.

Now, thanks to a \$1.36 million Community Facilities loan from USDA Rural Development—for which I wrote a letter of support—the food bank can operate out of a new, 5,500-square-foot building with offices and meeting space. It’s been open just over a year and it was a blessing over the 2009 Holiday Season when the need was so great.

Ms. Hayward is especially proud of the Santa’s Express Committee, which served over 800 families at Thanksgiving and 1,300 families at Christmas. This was made possible because of the success of the Santa’s Express Food Drive, which netted 28,000 pounds of food. In addition, the Food Bank was able to provide clothing and toys for the children of these families. Fraternal groups such as the Rotary, Lions, VFW, and others were team partners in this effort.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate The Resource Connection and the people of Calaveras County on their accomplishment in being recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.